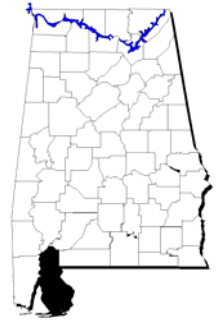


BALDWIN COUNTY

Honorable Carmen E. Bosch

Baldwin County Courthouse
312 Court House Square
Bay Minette, AL 36507
(334) 937-0235



Janice W. Hendrickson
Dave Adams
Faron Hollinger
Shirley A. Haynes
Albert Thomas
Durwood Smith
Rine Massey
Mary Burns
Sharon Gerogiannis
Jimmy Johnson

J.D. Wetstone
Billy Carlisle
Jennifer Rolison
Lee Peacock
Frank Burt
Marva Dean Little
Gerri Whatley
Bill Ford
Karen E. Sharpe
Cheryl Given

Jaty Jager
Glenda C. Gault
Paige Benson
Tracy Turner
Cathy Pinion
Rodney Criswell
Stan Walter
John Cobb
Lou McKinley
Nancy Danley

Vista Volunteer: Charlene Gibbs

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Child Abuse/Neglect
2. Youth Violence/Bullying
3. Early Childhood/Education

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

Health - Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Lack of availability of Crisis Stabilization Services in Baldwin County

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Develop a search committee to explore how to fund and enact such a program
- Develop protocol of how to manage mental health needs at Juvenile Detention Center
- Coordinate support and current programs that have the potential to provide crisis services

Increase in Teen Pregnancies and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (reported and unreported)

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Assess and coordinate educational efforts to reduce Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Teen Pregnancy
- Find ways to coordinate Abuse Investigations and attachment services for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (Testing Prevention)
- Investigation and Department of Public Health of the availability of Public Service Announcement to aid in increasing awareness/prevention of pregnancy/sexually transmitted diseases

Safety - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Child Abuse/Neglect

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Establish local hotline/home for help
- Awareness programs in school

Children are not free of crime and drugs in Baldwin County

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Find in-house provider in Baldwin County for drug treatment
- Spread out out-patient programs to promote county wide involvement

Youth Violence/Bullying

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Establish protocol/S.O.P. for bus violence/school yard assaults. (County Wide)
- Programs in school for offender
- Make known that schools are serious/zero tolerance
- More school resource officers for schools

Education - Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Drop Out Prevention

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Children of borderline/midline IQ who do not qualify for Special Education Services may be eligible to receive services from the Alabama Department of Rehabilitative Services
- Develop a partnership between Department of Rehab Services and BCBOE to serve the children in #1
- Educate middle school counselors in the CHINS Program to assist in referring unmanageable children at an earlier age

Truancy Prevention

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Continue to familiarize principals, teachers, students, particularly new with Early Warning Truancy Program
- Continue to familiarize parents and public of Early Warning procedures by speaking at public meetings
- Designate a contact person in school system for parents to call if parents have a student with excessive minor absences

Early Care and

Education - Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Lack of child care subsidy funding for low-income working families in Baldwin County

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Create a collaborative council Head Start, early care programs and public school to create best childcare option plan for families to meet their working needs
- Committee submit a written request to state DHR and to the state Finance Committee to request the funding be restored to 2002 level and increased to Baldwin County for childcare.
- Look at the affect of licensing standards and how it relates to parental choice and health and safety of all children. Enter data into data base of ECD.

Lack of consistency in quality childcare

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Submit written request to State DHR to reevaluate licensing standards for all C.C. programs serving children 0-12 to only consist of a Fire and Health Department certificate, background check, education and training requirements
- Request adequate quality childcare training funding to meet standards

Lack of Parental involvement in childcare

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Public awareness of early parental involvement in C.C. to avoid J.D. with referral

Economic Security

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Transportation

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Creating additional transportation to BRATs

Housing

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Repairs from Ivan, mold, roofs
- Interfaith Hospitality Network for Homeless

Population vs. Real Estate Increase in Pricing

Policy Council Action Steps:

- People cannot afford to live in Gulf Shores in order to work and make repairs
- Demand for rental property great, prices too high

Parent Involvement and Skills

- Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Identify through the Court and education systems families who are in need of Family Strengthening Skills

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Obtain funding for Parenting Projects which work with "at risk" families of school children
- Will partner to work with the Family Service Center, BCMH, Fatherhood Initiative, and Baldwin Youth Services to provide parenting skills for all parents

Work with area agencies to provide parenting skills with focus on teen parents

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Solicit Grant Applications and provide letters of support

Policy Recommendation

1. State agencies need to coordinate efforts to determine whether duplication of services is occurring, so that necessary funds can be saved for the provision of all services needed in the state.
2. Groups such as the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Alabama District Attorneys Association, and the Alabama Sheriff's Associations need to be actively involved in the implementation of efforts to educate and protect children in the state.
3. Agencies that can provide "backup" plans for students who are having issues succeeding in a school setting need to have an open line of communication with the Board(s) of Education to help young people transition to a productive adulthood and not create new generations of problems in the future.
4. Providers need to make families more aware of the availability of services through public health offices.
5. Agencies need to attempt to refer to private service providers when available to them, as many are at a low or no cost system through faith based and other community efforts.

Accomplishments

1. Selected VISTA Volunteer
2. Helped collect and distribute supplies to Katrina victims in Mississippi.
3. Helping establish Wilderness Program for girls.